

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims

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1. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically tracking and balancing account receivable data comprising:
- submitting a billing data file to a processing entity, said billing data file comprising customer account records representing accounts receivable for a given ~~Carrier~~carrier;
  - determining each of said customer account records as one of at least two tracking data sets based on pre-defined criteria;
  - computing ~~the~~a total amount of accounts receivable for said customer account records located in each tracking data set related to said given ~~Carrier~~carrier;
  - generating a total amount of processed accounts receivable related to said given carrier by adding the computed total amounts of accounts receivable of the at least two tracking data sets;
  - comparing ~~the~~a total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable related to said given ~~Carrier~~carrier to the total amount of processed accounts receivable related to said ~~Carrier~~carrier, the total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable being the total amount of the accounts receivable inputted to the processing entity by said carrier;
  - creating a discrepancy report comprising said ~~Carrier~~carrier if the total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable ~~dedoes~~not equal the total amount of processed accounts receivables; and
  - creating a settlement report for said ~~Carrier~~carrier if the total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable ~~submitted~~equals the total amount of processed accounts receivable.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising routing said discrepancy report to at least one location accessible to at least one discrepancy source-identifier.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising routing said settlement report to at least one location accessible to at least one end-user of said settlement report.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 or 3 wherein said at least one location is a workstation connected to the processing entity by a local network.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said customer account records comprise a unique means to identify the ~~Carrier~~carrier that generated the customer account records.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said customer account records further comprise a customer account number.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein said customer account records further comprise the amount payable for services rendered by said ~~Carrier~~carrier.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein said customer account records further comprises the a billing cycle in which the customer account is payable.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the billing cycle is the criteria used to determine each of the customer account records as one of said tracking data sets.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the tracking data sets include a ~~Billed~~billed data set wherein said ~~Billed~~billed data set comprises said customer account records with accounts payable in a current billing cycle.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the tracking data sets include an ~~Unbilled~~unbilled data set wherein said ~~Unbilled~~unbilled data set comprises said customer account records with accounts payable in a further billing cycle.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the tracking data sets include an ~~Error~~error data set wherein said ~~Error~~error data set comprises invalid customer account records.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the discrepancy report comprises:

the total amount of accounts receivable data submitted to the processing entity relating to said given ~~Carrier~~carrier; and

the total amount of accounts receivable data located in each tracking data set relating to said ~~Carrier~~carrier.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the settlement report comprises the amount of accounts receivable located in each tracking data set relating said ~~Carrier~~carrier.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising establishing an agreement between a plurality of said ~~Carriers~~carriers and said processing entity, said ~~Carriers~~carriers agreeing to submit said billing data files to the processing entity and said processing entity agreeing to process said billing data files and remit payment to said ~~Carriers~~carriers.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically tracking and balancing account receivable data comprising:

a ~~Carrier~~carrier submitting a billing data file to a processing entity, said billing data file comprising customer account records representing accounts receivable for said ~~Carrier~~carrier; and

the processing entity,

determining each of said customer account records as one of at least two tracking data sets based on pre-defined criteria;

computing ~~the~~a total amount of accounts receivable for said customer account records located in each tracking data set related to said ~~Carrier~~carrier;

generating a total amount of processed accounts receivable related to said carrier by adding the computed total amounts of accounts receivable of the at least two tracking data sets;

comparing ~~the~~a total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable related to said ~~Carrier~~carrier to the total amount of processed accounts receivable related to said ~~Carrier~~carrier, the total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable being the total amount of the accounts receivable inputted to the processing entity by said carrier;

creating a discrepancy report comprising said ~~Carrier~~carrier if the total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable ~~de~~does not equal the total amount of processed accounts receivables; and

creating a settlement report for said ~~Carrier~~carrier if the total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable ~~submitted~~equals the total amount of processed accounts receivable.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16 further comprising a notification device routing said discrepancy report to at least one location accessible to at least one discrepancy source-identifier.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16 further comprising a notification device routing said settlement report to at least one location accessible to at least one end-user of said settlement report.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16 wherein the processing entity includes a data storage device storing said billing data files submitted to the processing entity and storing said tracking data sets.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16 wherein the processing entity includes a tracking device determining each of said customer account records as one of said at least two tracking data sets based on said pre-defined criteria.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 wherein the processing entity includes a reconciliation device,

copying said ~~Carrier~~carrier's accounts receivable from said tracking data sets based on said pre-defined criteria;

~~computing~~generating the total amount of processed accounts receivable for said ~~Carrier~~carrier;

comparing the total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable with the total amount of processed accounts receivable ~~submitted~~ for said ~~Carrier~~carrier;

creating a discrepancy report if the total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable does not equal the total amount of processed accounts receivable ~~submitted~~ for said ~~Carrier~~carrier; and

creating a settlement report if the total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable equals the total amount of processed accounts receivable ~~submitted~~ for said ~~Carrier~~carrier.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21 wherein said discrepancy report contains a list of ~~Carriers~~carriers whose total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable did not equal the total amount of processed accounts receivable ~~submitted for~~ said ~~Carrier~~carrier.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22 wherein said settlement report contains the total accounts receivable computed in each tracking data set for a ~~Carrier~~said carrier whose total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable equals the total amount of processed accounts receivable ~~submitted for~~ said ~~Carrier~~carrier.

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